



# Sam Brownback

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ KANSAS

303 Hart Senate Office Building • Washington DC 20510 • (202) 224-8950

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## News Release

July 28, 2000

CONTACT ERIK HOTMIRE

### **PRESIDENT SIGNS BROWNBACK LEGISLATION TO SIMPLIFY TAXATION OF WIRELESS CALLS INTO LAW**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback today was pleased by President Clinton signing the Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act into law. This legislation, authored by Brownback, will bring about the simplification of wireless call taxation.

“Today, we have begun the process that will lead toward simplifying the taxation of wireless calls,” Brownback said. “This is good news for industry, government, and most importantly, consumers.

“The Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act represents an historic agreement between state and local governments and the wireless industry to bring sanity to the manner in which wireless telecommunications services are taxed. This legislation is the product of more than three year’s worth of negotiations between the governors, cities, state tax and local tax authorities, and the wireless industry.

“The legislation, now signed into law, will create a nationwide, uniform system for the taxation of wireless calls. The only jurisdictions that would have the authority to tax mobile calls would be the taxing authorities of the customer’s place of primary use, which would essentially be the customer’s home or office.

“By creating this uniform system, Congress is greatly simplifying the taxation and billing of wireless calls. The wireless industry will not have to keep track of multiple taxing laws for each wireless transaction. State and local taxing authorities will be relieved of burdensome audit and oversight responsibilities without losing the authority to tax wireless calls. And, most importantly, consumers will see reduced wireless rates and fewer billing headaches,” Brownback said.

The Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act creates a national uniform system for the taxation of wireless calls. Under previous law, multiple jurisdictions had the authority to tax the same wireless call. Under the new law, only the state, county, local, and sub-local authorities of a consumer’s ‘place of primary use’ can tax a wireless call, which is either the consumer’s home or business address.

Brownback and U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan were the first members of Congress to introduce The Mobile Telecommunications Sourcing Act (S. 1755) legislation, which was reported to the full Senate by the Commerce Committee unanimously in April. Congressman Henry Hyde authored the House version of this bill (H.R. 4391), which was substantively identical to the Brownback bill. The Hyde bill passed the House earlier in July, and the Senate passed it several days later.